

Strengthening Families Storytime: Social Connections

THE MESSAGE

During your storytime, try to deliver the following message to adults:

Having a network of support from friends, family members, neighbors, and community members is essential for families during high stress times. Building positive relationships within your community helps strengthen families and offers a way to give back.

Your library is a great place to build social connections - attend a program to meet others with similar interests or just hang out and meet new people.

STORYTIME THEMES

Building positive relationships can be crucial in a time of crisis. A storytime that focuses on social connections will involve books about neighbors and communities.

Possible themes/titles for this type of storytime include:

- Counting on Communities
- Our Neighborhood
- Community Connections
- It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

BOOKS

- *Come with Me* by Holly M. McGhee
- *Counting on Community* by Innosanto Nagara
- *Quinto's Neighborhood* by Ina Cumpiano
- *The Lemon Tree* by Katherine Graham
- *The One Day House* by Julia Durango
- *Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena
- *A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Knitting Story* by Michelle Edwards

Reading books about communities and neighborhoods can help families understand the importance of social connections.

ACTIVITIES

Try incorporating activities that encourage working together and community building.

- Retell a story with flannel pieces
- Make an imaginary pizza
- Group building challenge with blocks

LEARN MORE

<https://www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org/>

https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/communities_2020.pdf